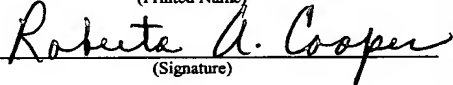


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Smith et al.
Title: VEHICLE COMPONENT AND
METHOD FOR MAKING A
VEHICLE COMPONENT
Appl. No.: To be determined
International Filing Date: 1/3/2005
371(c) Date: 06/29/2006
Examiner: To be determined
Art Unit: To be determined

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service's "Express Mail Post Office To Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
EV 633138604 US	06/29/06
(Express Mail Label Number)	(Date of Deposit)
Roberta A. Cooper	
(Printed Name)	
	
(Signature)	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR §1.491.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

Any document listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 was cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding European application. A copy of the European Search Report is attached setting forth the portion of each document considered relevant by the examiner. Also, the relevance of the foreign-language documents is described in English-language abstracts for the documents provided herewith. However, English-language counterparts of the foreign-language documents have not been provided. The absence of a translation or an English-language counterpart document does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider any submitted document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609).

Applicants respectfully request that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Although Applicant believes that no fee is required for this Request, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Request to Deposit Account No. 06-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 6/29/2006

By Scott D. Anderson

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50701111 10 JUN 2006

MODIFIED PTO/SB/08 (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: June 29, 2006 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	To Be Determined
				Filing Date	06/29/2006
				First Named Inventor	Nels R. Smith
				Group Art Unit	To Be Determined
				Examiner Name	To Be Determined
				Attorney Docket Number	026032-5081

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	2005/0083712	A1	Brodi, Jr. et al.	04-21-2005	
	A2	6,838,027	B2	Brodi, Jr. et al.	01-04-2005	
	A3	5,626,382		Johnson et al.	05-06-1997	
	A4	5,429,786		Jogan et al.	07-04-1995	

UNPUBLISHED U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Application Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Filing Date of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Serial Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A5	EP	0 734 832	B1	Hara et al.	10-02-1996		
	A6	JP	2002-187166		Ae et al.	07-02-2002		
	A7	JP	2001-191361		Mizuno et al.	07-17-2001		
	A8	JP	2000-210978		Shimabara	08-02-2000		
	A9	JP	2000-127862		Miura et al.	05-09-2000		
	A10	JP	10-315241		Unoki et al.	12-02-1998		

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶
	A11	International Search Report for PCT/US2005/000120, date of mailing 04/11/05, 3 pages.	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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